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Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

Note verbale dated 10 April 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and, further to the letter from the Chair of the Committee of 27 February 2013, has the honour to forward the response of the Republic of Croatia to the request for additional information regarding the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

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Annex to the note verbale dated 10 April 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee

Response of the Republic of Croatia to the request for additional information issued by the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

The National Strategy and the Action Plan for the Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction was adopted by the Croatian Government on 10 January 2013. The Strategy defines the general framework of actions of the Republic of Croatia pertaining to the suppression of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and provides guidelines for improvement of the existing and development of new measures, mechanisms and instruments for the prevention and suppression of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The Strategy provides guidelines for strengthening coordination and integration of activities of State and public authorities and other legal entities in the Republic of Croatia and cooperation with bodies of other States and international organizations. The Strategy is an integral part of the entire national crisis management system. The Strategy shows how Croatia contributes to global, regional and national security through its active and responsible approach to international cooperation in the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, meeting all of the commitments stemming from United Nations Security Council resolutions, and adaptation to the relevant standards of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union. The Strategy and the Action Plan represent guidelines for improving the system on the level of State administration bodies, better cooperation and coordination among them, as well as cooperation among the relevant Croatian bodies and relevant bodies from other countries and international organizations.

On 15 March 2013, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs hosted the first meeting of the National Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation, which was attended by representatives of the following relevant State administration bodies: Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs — Chair of the Commission; Ministry of Defence; Ministry of the Interior; Ministry of the Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Health and Social Welfare; Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure; Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development; Ministry of Finance — Customs Administration and Office for Money Laundering Prevention; State Attorney's Office of the Republic of Croatia; Security and Intelligence Agency; Military Security and Intelligence Agency; General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia; Coast Guard of the Republic of Croatia; State Office for Radiological and Nuclear Safety; National Protection and Rescue Directorate; National Computer Emergency Response Team and Information Systems Security Bureau.

The Republic of Croatia was a co-organizer of the regional seminar on brokering of military and dual-use goods held in Zagreb on 26 March 2013, together with the United States Embassy in Zagreb and the United States Department of State Export Control and Related Border Security Programme. It was the second time that Croatia had co-organized a regional seminar on the topic of brokering. It is a topic that deserves all our attention, as it still needs legal sharpening and stronger

cooperation in order to meet the challenge of illicit trade of both military and dual-use goods. Croatia has incorporated into its national legislation the highest international standards in regulating arms brokering, as set in the relevant European Union Common Position on the control of arms brokering and its Code of Conduct on Arms Exports, in accordance with the Wassenaar Arrangement provisions, the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the United Nations Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly — all requiring States parties to establish a system for regulating activities in brokering.

The Republic of Croatia is active in the European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative. The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs hosted an international meeting on the mitigation of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats in Zagreb on 4 October 2012. It was the fourth meeting of south-eastern European national representatives. It was organized to strengthen cooperation among the region's countries, the European Union, United Nations partners, and other relevant international organizations.

Regional Training on Technical Aspects of the Chemical Weapons Convention Transfers Regime was held in Croatia for Customs Authorities on 30 August 2012. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and National Authority of the Republic of Croatia organized a Regional Training Course for Customs Authorities on the Technical Aspects of the Transfers Regime of the Chemical Weapons Convention in Zagreb from 27 to 31 August 2012. The proper implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention transfers regime is a key obligation under the Convention and ensures the fullest possible exchange of chemicals for peaceful purposes. The regional training course covered a variety of different aspects of the transfers regime.

The tenth seminar on the Chemical Weapons Convention was held in Croatia in co-organization with OPCW and RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation from 18 to 21 March 2013 in Rakitje, Croatia. The seminar highlighted the long-standing cooperation between RACVIAC and OPCW. The seminar focused on article X and implementation issues, the OPCW capacity-building activities, and its role and capabilities in the delivery of assistance and investigations of alleged use.

The Twelfth Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Eastern Europe will be organized in Zagreb from 14 to 16 May 2013. The meeting is designed to provide an opportunity for interaction among personnel of national authorities who are involved with national implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The representatives of the National Authorities in Eastern Europe will have the opportunity to review and discuss issues related to the practical implementation of the Convention. For the first time, from 10 to 28 September 2012, the Croatian company Petrokemija Kutina participated in the OPCW Associate Programme. Through this cooperation, Croatia would like to develop its ability to establish links with the business sector and chemical industry.